

Developing an Environmental Indicators Package for the Chesapeake Bay Program

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During a decade of monitoring, planning and environmental restoration activity, this program has assembled a massive database, produced lengthy reports on and invested tens of millions of dollars in cleanup activities. Explaining such a complex effort to managers and the public lead the authors to spearhead developing a highly successful visual package of indicators, based on a conceptual framework which tracks over 35 nutrient enrichment, living resource and toxics measures along several levels in a hierarchy from voluntary or regulatory actions through real-world environmental responses. The indicators package has become a tool for accurately communicating complex technical material in a relatively simple manner to diverse audiences. It has aroused nationwide interest and we will provide practical advice on assuring peer review, expedient updating, and regular management and public exposure.

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